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Adm - 10.5

31 JUL 1967



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office
SUBJECT : SOC 70 Plan

1. The Agency has under review the recently received SOC 70 Plan for the Satellite Operations Center. The changing role of the SOC, which is outlined in the Plan, can have far-reaching effects which should be carefully weighed. The recent amendments, dated 12 July 1967, reflect an apparent major redirection of effort, especially as it affects mission planning, mission targeting by satellites, and post-mission analyses. The document also represents the first written summary of the SOC mission that has been received by the Agency since discussions at the beginning of the year.

2. In this connection, the SOC Software Coordinating Group, established by D/NRO Action Memorandum No. 12, dated 19 May 1967, was given an unusually difficult charter, and it may be appropriate that some revision of its charter be made.

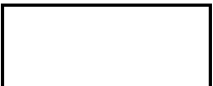
3. The principal objective of the group to assist the SOC in preparing itself to operate [redacted] is highly desirable. It would therefore appear logical for the group to undertake a thorough examination of the various concepts involving alternative assignments to the Agency, the SOC, and the BTC, and the impact of data flow under each. In examining these alternatives, the group should be cautious that the software requirements for the SOC operation of [redacted] will permit its maximum utilization. It would be ill-advised should any satellite system be operated using software designed for maximum utilization of a dissimilar system. The group therefore could be charged

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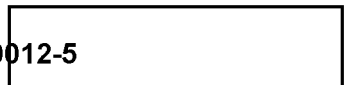
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25X1 with setting forth alternate conceptual approaches with the pros and cons of each for final selection by the D/NRO at the time [redacted] responsibility is being determined. The necessary derivation of software development costs and schedules could subsequently be undertaken by the agency charged with the technical direction of the necessary software development to meet SOC-directed needs.

25X1D 4. In view of the [redacted] for the [redacted] it is suggested that a later date of, say, 1 November 1967 for the submission of SOC Software Coordinating Group recommendations would provide the group with sufficient time for a more complete assessment of alternatives and their implications.

5. I should be happy to discuss this matter further with you if you so desire.

[redacted]

Carl E. Buckett
Director
CIA Reconnaissance Programs

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